

sure to be in harmony with her other operations: a building abandoned to time and weather, i.e. when finished with materials of a natural surface, becomes adopted into nature's family, and grows into harmony with all around; and the greatest proof of the beauty of any work of man is given when it so unites with those of nature.

There can be no objection, however, to the use of two differently coloured stones, to recommend which is not to adopt polychromy, as the result of time and weather on the natural surface is very different to their effect on the coloured or painted one. Two differently coloured stones judiciously chosen may produce an immediate result of great beauty, and a combination of the kind I have observed in some buildings, where a yellowish or greenish-grey material, which most light stone is, has been employed in conjunction with a reddish or purplish one, producing in itself a beautiful harmony of colour. Moreover, give Nature a ground of two different colours to work upon, and she produces a greater variety of harmony. Though I would observe that it must be chiefly difference in colour, not in depth of tone; for if there be much difference between the depth of the local colour, it interferes with the light and shade, and produces patchwork; also, that the darker surface should not be at all equal in quantity to the light, or it destroys breadth.

These latter remarks have reference to small or medium works, for in the grand style of architecture I consider monotony of colour an essential, and fully agree with Mr. Garbett in his observations on this subject in his "Treatise on the Principles of Architecture." In viewing great buildings, we never feel a want of polychromy any more than we do the absence of it in great works of nature, as the elephant. There appears to be no natural call for it in the breast, at least, in this climate. If the form of a building be great and noble, it strikes us as complete. In viewing many large works I have felt the absence of sculpture, which seemed wanting to give emphasis to the idea of the architect, but never the lack of painting. Variety of colour, as I have just admitted, may improve a small work. We see colour sometimes advantageously applied to shop-fronts, and we are pleased with the two colours of stone or of stone and brick in small churches and villas, but we never feel the want of it in great works. Indeed, the feeling that prompts to it seems not to exist in the architectural mind in this climate; but if architecture ought in truth to be coloured, how is it that our greatest geniuses, who drew their inspiration from the same source as the Greeks, never thought of it? How is it that his genius, his art feeling, the divine afflatus never whispered to Wren that his cathedral exterior wanted painting? He sighed for other forms he was not allowed to embody, but not for painting. And Vanbrugh, who studied pictorial effects of composition and *chiaro scuro*, dreamed not of colour.*

S. H.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY.

THE committee of the Metropolitan Sanitary Association lately issued a memorandum on the Government and Companies' Bills now pending before a select committee of the House of Commons, viewing with great alarm and apprehension the present posture of the metropolitan water-supply question. They draw the attention of the water consumers and ratepayers to the fact that the water from barren hill tops, such as the sandy hills of Surrey, suggested by the Central Board of Health, is invariably purer, softer, and better than water from cultivated valley bottoms, such as that of the Thames, whether above the Teddington lock, from which it appears determined that the public must take the least obnoxious future portion of their water supply, or below it, in accordance with the still more objectionable supply at present. The very fermentation whereby, as argued, such rivers as the Thames purify themselves of town faeces in their course, is pointed out as an influence poisonous and pernicious to health (if not in fact, as we

suspect, fermentative of pestilent decomposition and putrefaction in the blood itself). The cost of pure soft water from the Surrey hills, it is noted, would not cost more than 2d. per house on the average, and would save more than a million a year in soap and soda, wear and tear, of linen, waste of tea, &c. The saving attainable by a centralization or combination of the water supply and sewerage on a right principle, and in one consolidated management, is noted as sufficient to buy all the water companies out. The water companies, however, it is remarked, are stated to command upwards of eighty votes in the House of Commons, while their great wealth further enables them to secure the attendance of numerous witnesses prepossessed in their favour, and to retain the ablest counsel in their defence; whereas no such resources are available in defence of the public interests, and the Commons have refused to allow the Sanitary Association to defend these interests before the water committee. The Association have therefore protested on behalf of the public against the finality of any decision emanating from a tribunal so inadequately constituted, so imperfectly informed, and so exposed to be misled by one-sided evidence, as the water committee, and they appeal to the metropolitan press for that free audience, and that impartial sifting of the question, which Parliament has seen fit to deny; at the same time warning the London water-consumers and ratepayers that their interests would certainly be overruled (as they since appear to have been) in committee, and one or more of the obnoxious Bills now pending become law, unless public opinion be speedily brought to bear against the threatened perpetuation of the water monopoly, and in favour of pure hill-top water, with consolidated arrangements for its delivery and removal, at a large reduction of existing rates.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.

THE annual meeting was held on Monday, the 3rd, at eight o'clock, to receive the report of the council on the state of the property and affairs of the Institute. Professor Cockerell took the chair.

The Institute now consists of 122 fellows, 19 honorary fellows, 15 honorary members, 85 honorary and corresponding members, and 103 associates. The report, amongst other things, stated that,—

"The committee appointed to enquire for more suitable apartments have not been unoccupied during the last twelve months, and they have endeavoured fully and fairly to investigate the eligibility of several offers and suggestions that have been laid before them; but the council regret that no proposition has yet been made which they can lay before the members of the Institute for consideration.

The second committee formed to consider and report on the Metropolitan Buildings Bill, introduced by Lord Seymour, H.M.'s First Commissioner of Woods and Works, devoted much time and attention to obtain the opinion of the Institute generally on the subject, as desired by his lordship. Their report was considered and adopted at a special general meeting, and subsequently forwarded to Lord Seymour in the shape of an interleaved copy of the Bill, with remarks and proposed alterations.

Several questions affecting professional practice, laid before the council by individual members, have been, it is believed, satisfactorily answered, by reference to the mass of useful information in MS. on the subject, which a committee some time since collected and arranged. The subject of Competition has again been brought under their notice by a kindred society, with a proposition to lay down stringent regulations for its management. The opinions of the Institute have long been in the hands of members in a printed form, and strict attention to the recommendation so put forth would, the council conceive, tend more to prevent the abuses complained of, than any attempt at compulsory enactment. In whatever shape this and like matters may come before the executive of the Institute, their plain duty lies in the strict endeavour to carry out unreservedly and unflinchingly the object set forth in section 1 of the bye-laws—the establishment of uniformity and respectability of practice in the Profession.

The financial position of the affairs of the Insti-

tute is satisfactory. The balance in hand is 231*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.* more than last year; and 64*l.* 16*s.* 5*d.* stock has been purchased and added to the amount invested in the public funds."

The following is a copy of a memorial addressed to the Queen:—

"May it please your Majesty:

The Royal Institute of British Architects, who are honoured by the patronage of your Majesty and of H. R. Highness Prince Albert, having had their attention called to the dilapidated and perishing condition of several of the tombs of your Majesty's royal predecessors in Westminster Abbey, have, with the special permission of the Subdean and Chapter, examined carefully these memorials of an illustrious line of monarchs, and have found many of them in a state of mutilation and decay, threatening destruction within a few years, and derogatory to the memory of sovereigns whose names and deeds are justly dear to the English nation.

A select committee of the House of Commons on National Monuments in a report dated the 16th of June, 1841, expressed their opinion that increased attention should be paid to the preservation of those royal monuments, and the members of the Royal Institute of British Architects are strongly impressed with the conviction that unless means be immediately taken some of these precious and most valuable records of the past history of the kings and queens and of the arts of this country at periods now imperfectly known, will ere long be irretrievably lost.

The Institute, therefore, humbly and earnestly pray that your Majesty will be graciously pleased to direct enquiry to be made into the condition of the royal monuments in Westminster Abbey, and to order such steps to be taken as in your Majesty's judgment may be best calculated to preserve and worthily perpetuate these venerable and deeply interesting memorials of past sovereigns."

The following is a list of the new council and office-bearers.

President.—Earl de Grey.

Vice-Presidents.—T. L. Donaldson, W. S. Inman, D. Mocatta.

Honorary Secretaries.—J. J. Seales, C. C. Nelson.

Ordinary Members of Council.—J. B. Bunning, T. T. Bury, G. Godwin, E. Hesketh, J. Jennings, J. T. Knowles, R. W. Mylne, J. W. Papworth, H. Roberts, E. Woodthorpe.

Auditors.—J. H. Good, jun. Fellow; James Fergusson, Associate.

THE OLD WATER-COLOUR GALLERY.

THE collection now exhibiting by the Society of Painters in Water-colours, at Pall-mall East, is very excellent, all the members being in full force. The frequenters of this gallery know so well what they will see when they hear the artists' names, that description is scarcely necessary. Mr. Copley Fielding has his usual large number of landscapes and sea-pieces, many of them of great beauty. Mr. John Lewis exhibits an extraordinary piece of manipulation, "The Arab Scribe" (139), second only, in this respect, to his "Hhareem" of last year. Mr. W. Callow has advanced considerably in the delineation of architectural subjects. Branwhite's "Frozen Ford" is a wonderful work; and Bentley, Gastineau, Duncan, V. Bartholomew, and D. Cox, have all good specimens of their respective styles. 38, "View of the Temple of Neptune, Pæstum," by A. Glennie; 60, "Lake of Como," by T. M. Richardson; "The South Aisle of Rouen Cathedral" (188), and "The Lake of Thun," both by W. C. Smith, are amongst our favourites. Hunt's Fruit and Flowers beat Nature, but we cannot endorse the great admiration of some of our contemporaries for his "Village Pet."

ADVERTISING ARCHITECTS.—We find the following in an American newspaper:—"John W. Priest, M.A. Architect, having determined to confine his practice to a few kinds of buildings, devotes particular attention to the preparation of designs and working drawings for country houses; and, while using one general style, makes it his study, in every work that he undertakes, to accommodate his design to the nature of the proposed site and material, as well as to the extent of the proposed expenditure."

* To be continued.